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INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Election Results Poor

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1. The new change in Tito's policy on the Trieste question seems to be the result of the rather bad outcome of the last Yugoslav elections. The control of the elections, particularly in Belgrade, was effective. Every voter had first to be found on electoral lists and only 75 percent were permitted to vote by the Yugoslav authorities. The candidates in Belgrade were, besides Tito, the chief of the secret police Rankovic, his closest advisor, Mosa Pijade, and the owner of the Belgrade newspaper "Politika," Vladislav Ribnikar, together with Mayor Jokic, Vladimir Simic, Veljko Vlahovic and Bozidar Tomic.
2. At each voting place there was about an average of 500 voters. The Yugoslav secret police supervised polling places. All Yugoslavs thought they had to vote and vote "correctly." If a person had not voted by 9 a.m., the authorities dispatched agents to see why. In spite of all this the number of invalid ballots increased greatly. The lack of a greater opposition at the polls was due to the following: US aid to Tito, fear of reprisal, general fatigue, and lack of support to emigrants abroad by western powers, especially in regard to the ineligibility of Yugoslavs to qualify for the US escape program. The number of those voting was 15 percent lower than Yugoslav officials claim.

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